

Dendrobium kentrophyllum (Orchidaceae) – a new record for the orchid flora of Manipur, India^a

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Abstract

This is a new distributional report of *Dendrobium kentrophyllum* J.D.Hooker from Manipur state, India. The species is described and illustrated.

Résumé

Dendrobium kentrophyllum (Orchidaceae) – addition à la flore d'orchidées du Manipur, Inde – Cette note rapporte la découverte de *Dendrobium kentrophyllum* J.D.Hooker dans l'État de Manipur. L'espèce est brièvement décrite et illustrée.

Introduction

Dendrobium O.Swartz is a large genus in the family Orchidaceae represented by ca 1680 species (Dressler, 1993; Govaerts *et al.*, 2016). They are distributed in South Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia and Pacific Islands (Moudi *et al.*, 2013; Xiaohua *et al.*, 2008). More than 100 species of *Dendrobium* have been reported from India (Hedge, 1997; Gattoo & Ahmad, 2013; Singh *et al.*, 2001). In Manipur, the genus is represented by ca 60 species (Chowdhery, 2009; Kishor *et al.*, 2013; Kumar & Kumar, 2005; Lokho, 2013; Nanda *et al.*, 2012; 2013; 2014a; 2014b). During a field survey in Sangaithel at Senapati District, Manipur, some plants of *Dendrobium* were collected in March 2014 and subsequently grown at CSIR-NBRI

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Botanic Garden, Lucknow. The plants flowered in late October 2015 and were identified as *Dendrobium kentrophyllum*. This is the first report of its occurrence in Manipur. A description of the species is provided.

Dendrobium kentrophyllum J.D.Hooker. *The Flora of British India* 5: 725 (1890)

Epiphytic herb, stem erect or ascending, 10-30 cm long; leaves succulent, flattened, narrow, slightly curved outwards, acute, 3-5 × 0.6-0.8 cm; flower axillary or terminal, pale greenish-yellow or whitish-yellow, ca 1-2 × 0.8-1.5 cm; mentum large, angulate; dorsal sepal ovate-oblong, 0.5-0.8 × 0.3-0.4 cm; lateral sepals obliquely ovate-lanceolate, base oblique; petals obovate-lanceolate, narrower than the dorsal sepal, apex acute; lip obovate, cuneate, retuse, whitish with a median yellowish orange band, ambiguously 3-lobed, hypochile undulate, epichile bilobed at the apex; column curved, 7-8 × 3-4 mm, base yellowish orange. (Fig.1).

Specimen examined: India: Manipur, Senapati, Sangaithel, 2 March 2014, JS Khuraijam 101968 (LWG); Thailand: Siamese Malay State, Panya and Kasoom, November 1897, Curtis, C K001085044 (K-digital image!)

Distribution: India: Arunachal Pradesh (Hegde & Rao 1982; 1983), Assam (Lokho, 2013), Manipur (present report); Borneo; Laos; Malaysia; Sumatra and Thailand.

Flowering: October-November [CSIR-NBRI Botanic Garden]

Habitat: The species grows on tree branches in a mixed deciduous forest.

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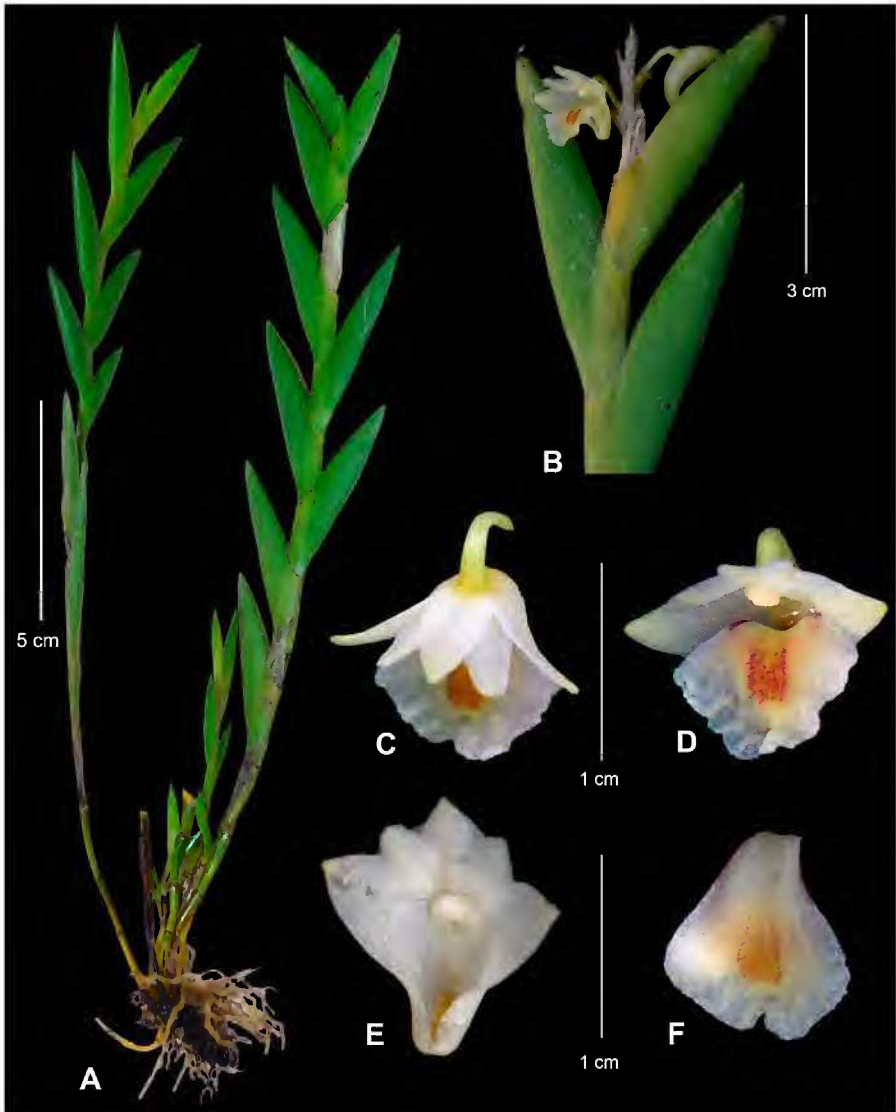


Fig. 1. *Dendrobium kentrophyllum* Hooker

A. Habit; B. Flowering branch; C. Upper view of flower; D. Front view of flower; E. Flower with the lip removed to show the column; F. Lip.

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